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COUNTRY Last Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Alt Loennowitz Airfield

25X1 EVALUATION ☐ PLACE OBTAINED ☐ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 28 September to 7 October 1952

25X1 DATE OBTAINED ☐ DATE PREPARED 18 November 195225X1 REFERENCES ☐

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

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1. The following observations were made at Alt Loennowitz airfield between 28 September and 7 October 1952:
- 28 September. There was no air activity at the field.
- 29 September. Between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., individual MiG-15s practiced flying. The weather was partly cloudy. It rained in the afternoon.
- 30 September. There was mostly flying in four finger formations. Between 10:30 and 1:35 a.m., four formations of four planes each took off. When the first formation took off, the next formation was parked on the grass cover behind the west end of the runway. As the first formation took off, ☐ 25X1 that two MiG-15s stood right and aft of each other at the end of the runway while the other two planes stood on the runway 20 to 30 aircraft lengths in front of the other two planes. All the four planes took off simultaneously and kept the distance for some time. Then, the two rear planes, joined up in line abreast formation. The formation flew toward the Ibe River. Before the planes returned to the field, it was observed that air-to-ground firing was practiced in the Belgern area. In the afternoon, the same air activity was performed as in the morning. Flying was discontinued at about 6:30 p.m. All the aircraft which were observed taking off and landing at the field were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks. Also on the following days, there was air activity by planes with auxiliary fuel tanks.
- 1 October. At 7:30 a.m., 16 MiG-15s took off in elements of two. Formation flying was practiced until noon. After 2 p.m., MiG-15s flying in elements of two practiced firing at an airborne target, while other planes dropped bombs on ground targets in the woods west of the field. At about 5 p.m., ☐ 25X1 ☐ Schwarzer Weg; that three tank dummies were located northwest of the hangars near the target range, where strafing was practiced with aircraft weapons. ☐ 25X1
- 2 October. No air activity. It rained very much.
- 3 October. After 9 a.m., individual MiG-15s were observed taking off and landing at the field. The planes sometimes flew in the clouds. Flying was discontinued at 4:30 p.m.
- 4 October. At 8 a.m., 16 MiG-15s took off in elements of two at intervals of 6 minutes. They headed toward the west. At 8:40 a.m., another four MiG-15s took off in elements of two heading west. One Yak-11 plane flew over the field between 4 and 5 p.m.
- 5 October. No air activity.

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6 October. At 7:30 a.m., eight MiG-15s took off individually, made local flights which lasted 15 to 20 minutes, and then landed individually. Further individual flights were made throughout the day at short intervals. After 6:30 p.m., flying still continued. After nightfall, the planes flew with set position lights. A searchlight located just north of the west end of the runway illuminated the runway shortly before the take-off. When the planes were airborne, the searchlight rotated three or four times before switching off.

7 October. No air activity.¹

2. A supply battalion with an undetermined number of soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets was stationed at the field. According to a worker employed at the field, the battalion was under the command of a major. [redacted] that the battalion was charged with the supervision of the so-called Wirtschaftshof (farmyard) which, among other equipment had 3 coaches and some light carriages which are customary in Russia, as well as 60 pigs, 18 horses and more than 10 watchdogs. The battalion was also charged with the maintenance of the field and the target ranges and with the supply of material for the farmyard. The commanding officers at the field had repeatedly been changed after May 1952. Allegedly, one commanding officer had not taken security measures strict enough and, therefore, was relieved by another officer who ordered that most of the vehicular traffic should take place at night. One of the commanding officers was allegedly transferred to Koethen.²
3. In the second half of September, [redacted] the AA gun emplacement of six AA guns, located on the southern edge of the field, was well camouflaged so that only the gun barrels could be seen. Tents were still located near the emplacement.³

1. [redacted] Comment. Alt Loennewitz airfield is still occupied by a fighter regiment. Between 28 September and 7 October, particularly formation flying and strafing was observed. The information that four MiG-15s took off simultaneously indicates that the pilots have reached a good status of training. Strafing at tank dummies in the vicinity of the airfield is reported for the first time. It is believed that the firing range is actually located near Strehla on the Elbe River, south of Alt Loennewitz.

2. [redacted] Comment. The supply battalion probably is the supply company of the OATB. This supply company is responsible for the maintenance of the ground installations at the field and, in this connection, will also be charged with the agricultural utilization of the field, if at all possible.

3. [redacted] Comment. For pin-point location of AA gun emplacements, see Annex to [redacted]

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